D.C. Labor Market Indicators: January 2015 - May 2020

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Prepared by the Office of Labor Market Research and Performance
Highlights

• From January 2015 to May 2020:
  ❖ The unemployment rate in DC increased by 1.5 percentage points (or 20.3% increase);
  ❖ Unemployment rate in Ward 7 and Ward 8 increased by 0.2 percentage points (1.6% increase) and 0.7 percentage points (4.3% increase) respectively;
  ❖ Total number of DC residents that are employed decreased by 4,000;
  ❖ Total number of jobs in DC decreased by 21,900;
  ❖ Initial monthly unemployment insurance benefits claimants increased by 1,058%;
  ❖ Total number of unemployed DC residents increased by 5,700 people;
  ❖ In DC there are 1.0 jobs available (advertised) for 1 unemployed DC resident;
  ❖ The average weekly median duration of unemployment for Black and African American decreased by 18.9 weeks;
  ❖ The private sector total number of payroll jobs in the District decreased by 24,500 jobs or 4.78% decrease from January 2015;
  ❖ Professional and Business Services has the highest employment increase by industry with 6,400 since January 2015;
  ❖ The highest in-demand occupation is Software Developers, Applications with an average monthly opening of 4,573;
  ❖ The highest in-demand occupation requiring less than a bachelor’s degree is Computer User Support Specialists with an average monthly opening of 2,114.
DC Annual Average Unemployment Rate (2015-2019)

- 2015: 6.9
- 2016: 6.1
- 2017: 6.1
- 2018: 5.6
- 2019: 5.5
The District's Monthly Unemployment Rate: Jan. 2015 - May. 2020
Unemployment Rate (January 2015 - May 2020)

- **Jan-15**: USA 5.7%, D.C. 7.4%
- **May-20**: USA 13.3%, D.C. 8.9%
- **Difference (Jan-15 - May-20)**: USA 7.6%, D.C. 1.5%
Unemployment Rate by Ward (January 2015 - May 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Jan-15</th>
<th>May-20</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ward 8</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 7</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 6</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 5</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 4</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 3</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 2</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 1</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total Number of Jobs and Total Private Sector Jobs in DC (Jan. 2015 - May 2020)

- Total Number of Jobs in D.C.:
  - Jan-15: 748,100
  - May-20: 726,200
  - Difference: -21,900

- Total Private Sector Jobs in D.C.:
  - Jan-15: 512,300
  - May-20: 487,800
  - Difference: -24,500
Total Employment and Private Sector Employment in D.C. (Jan.2015 - May 2020 (In Thousands))

- **Total Employment (in Thousand)**
- **Total Private Sector Employment (in Thousand)**

The chart shows the trend of total employment and private sector employment from January 2015 to May 2020. The data points are indicated for each month from January 2015 to May 2020. The years 2020 and 2021 are divided into quarters, showing the impact of COVID-19 on employment.
The District's Labor Force (Jan. 2015 - May 2020) (In Thousands)
Employed D.C. Residents (Jan. 2015 - May 2020) (In Thousands)

- Jan-15: 357.2
- Mar-15: 358.5
- Jun-15: 361.8
- Sep-15: 365.4
- Dec-15: 369.9
- Mar-16: 371.1
- Jun-16: 372.4
- Sep-16: 374.4
- Dec-16: 375.8
- Mar-17: 376.8
- Jun-17: 378.0
- Sep-17: 380.2
- Dec-17: 382.6
- Mar-18: 382.5
- Jun-18: 381.7
- Sep-18: 381.9
- Dec-18: 383.3
- Mar-19: 388.1
- Jun-19: 389.7
- Sep-19: 390.1
- Dec-19: 395.1
- Mar-20: 395.1
- Apr-20: 355.5
- May-20: 353.2

Department of Employment Services
Washington, DC’s lead workforce development and labor agency
Median Duration of Unemployment (in weeks) (Jan. 2015 - May 2020)

- **Jan-15**: White (12.8), Black (19.5), Hispanic (28.5), All Races (42.5)
- **Apr-20**: White (10.0), Black (23.6), Hispanic (21.5), All Races (16.0)

Difference:
- White: 12.8 - 10.0 = 2.8
- Black: 19.5 - 23.6 = -4.1
- Hispanic: 28.5 - 21.5 = 7.0
- All Races: 42.5 - 16.0 = 26.5

Overall difference: 26.5 - (-4.1) = 30.6
Top 5 Industry with Highest Employment Increase (Jan. 2015 – May 2020)

- Professional and Business Services: +6,400
- Other Services: +6,300
- Information: +1,900
- Manufacturing: +200
- Mining, Logging & Construction: +100
Job Openings vs. Number of Unemployed DC Residents (Jan. 2015 - May 2020)

- **Jan-15**: 28,600 unemployed vs. 52,221 job openings
- **May-20**: 34,300 unemployed vs. 33,149 job openings

Difference:
- **5,700** unemployed
- **-19,072** difference in job openings vs. unemployed
Top 5 Job Openings: January 2017 - May 2020 (Average Monthly Unique Job Postings)

- **Software Developers, Applications**: 4,573 job openings, $113,750 median wage
- **Computer Occupations, All Other**: 3,561 job openings, $118,800 median wage
- **Information Security Analysts**: 3,146 job openings, $117,850 median wage
- **Registered Nurses**: 2,909 job openings, $88,800 median wage
- **Management Analysts**: 2,695 job openings, $103,300 median wage
Top 5 Job Openings Requiring Less Than Bachelor's Degree: January 2017 - May 2020 (Avg Monthly Unique Job Postings)

- **Computer User Support Specialists**: 2,114 Openings, $66,390 Median Wage
- **Web Developers**: 1,591 Openings, $86,580 Median Wage
- **First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers**: 1,343 Openings, $73,800 Median Wage
- **Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants**: 999 Openings, $69,830 Median Wage
- **Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive**: 977 Openings, $48,220 Median Wage
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Contact Information

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- Data Request: [https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/631658c092ef4395ab27b76716df8068](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/631658c092ef4395ab27b76716df8068)
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